THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIHUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no report on distress sale of cotton in Orissa, particularly in Rayagada District during the year 2002-03.

(c) The market prices of cotton have remained above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) throughout the procurement season. The district administration, Regulated Market Committee authorities and local agricultural officers have remained vigilant to ensure remunerative price to farmers and to check distress sale.

Employment opportunity in agricultural sector

†5123. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which success has been achieved in the creation of employment opportunities in the agriculture sector in Uttaranchal, so far, and to what extent;

(b) its percentage at the National level as well as the State level, separately;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to create the employment opportunities in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The major Schemes under implementation by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the State of Uttaranchal are as follows:—

i Macro Management Scheme

ii Oilseed Production Programme

iii. National Pulses Development Project

iv. Accelerated Maize Development Programme

v. National Horticulture Board

vi. Constructions of Rural Godowns

vii. Establishment of Agri-Business and Agri-Clinics.

The Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are production oriented to help the farmers in increasing the

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

production and productivity of various Agricultural and Horticultural crops in all States including Uttaranchal and to keep them engaged in this sector. However, this Department is not implementing any specific Scheme for the creation of employment opportunities in the States including Uttaranchal.

Decrease in oilseed production

†5124. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oilseed production in the country was 24.75 million ton during 1998-1999 which has now come down to 15.44 million ton;

(b) if not, Government's assessment in this regard;

(c) whether it is also fact that lack of incentives in this field is the reason for the continuous decrease in the said production; and

(d) if not, the incentives given by Government to the oilseed producers during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIHUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Oilseed Production in the country was 24.75 million tonnes during 1998-1999 which has now come down to 15.57 million tonnes during 2002-03.

(c) and (d) The main reason for the shortfall in production is the drought like condition prevailing in major oilseeds growing States in the country during the last three years. In order to increase the production of oilseeds in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation Under the scheme, financial assistance by way of incentives are given to the fanners for various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhyzobium culture micro nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst the farmers frontline demonstrations by the I.C. A.R. and block demonstrations by the State Department of Agriculture are organized. The pattern of financial assistance being provided under the scheme is given in the enclosed Statement.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.